

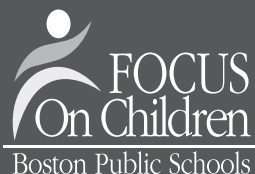


# *A decade of* Transforming The Boston Public Schools

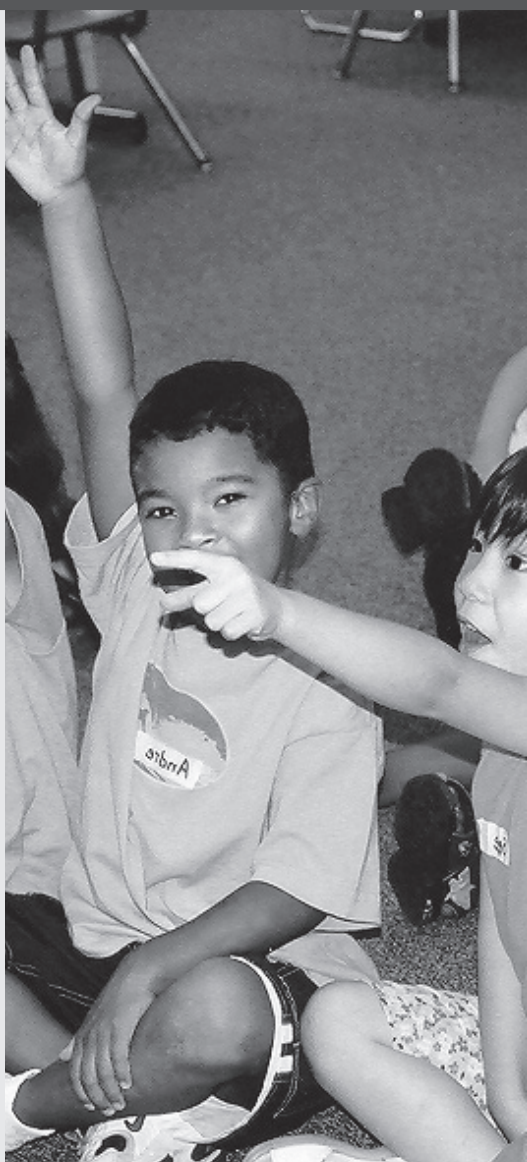
*through*

- **Challenging curriculum** — for students at all levels
- **Staff development and leadership training** — for teachers and principals
- **Stronger partnerships** — with parents, universities, businesses and cultural institutions
- **More school choice** — new schools, pilot schools, early childhood programs, K-8 schools and small high schools

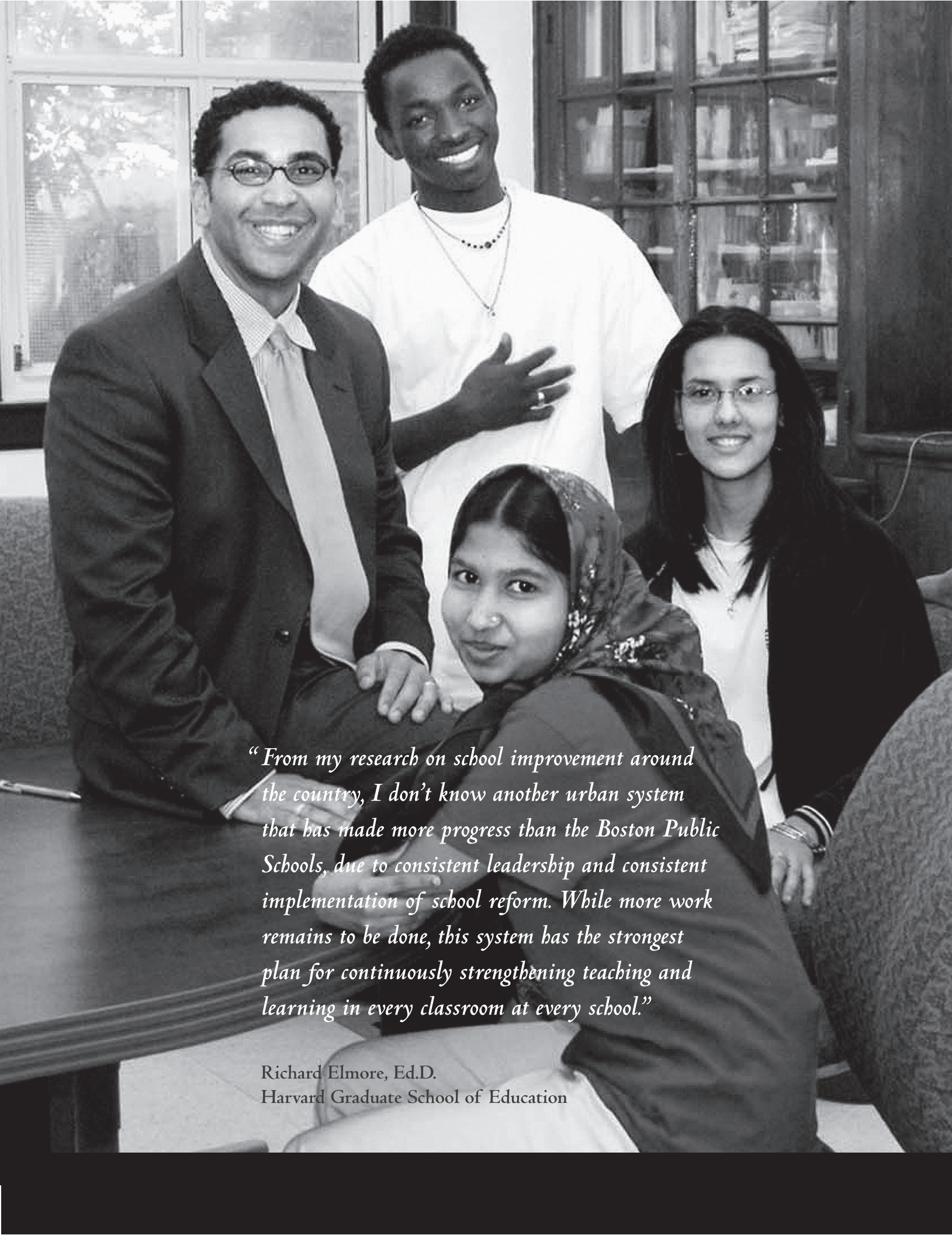
*Come inside. See the progress. Get involved.*



*As we strive to meet our goal that all students, all staff and all schools perform at high levels, please join us in celebrating these examples of progress . . .*



Mayor Thomas M. Menino  
The Boston School Committee  
Superintendent Thomas W. Payzant



*“From my research on school improvement around the country, I don’t know another urban system that has made more progress than the Boston Public Schools, due to consistent leadership and consistent implementation of school reform. While more work remains to be done, this system has the strongest plan for continuously strengthening teaching and learning in every classroom at every school.”*

Richard Elmore, Ed.D.  
Harvard Graduate School of Education



## Rising Test Scores ... *and increasing college attendance*

- ✓ On the 2004 MCAS, Boston Public Schools (BPS) students improved at a faster rate than the state average in nearly every grade tested.
- ✓ From 1998 to 2004, the percentage of students passing grade 10 Math MCAS on their first try increased from 25% to 74%, and the percentage of students passing grade 10 English MCAS increased from 43% to 77%.
- ✓ Reflecting the commitment to ensure that students do more than simply *pass* the MCAS, the percentages moving into the upper two scoring categories have increased for all grades tested. BPS 10th graders scoring Proficient or Advanced in Math tripled from 1998 to 2004.
- ✓ In the past five years, the improvement in BPS students' SAT scores was more than six times the national average gain in Verbal and almost three times the national average gain in Math.
- ✓ The percentage of BPS graduates going directly on to college (69%) is five points higher than the national average for urban and suburban public schools.
- ✓ More than 2500 BPS high school students are currently enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, and 10 times more students are taking these AP classes in district (non-exam) high schools than five years ago.
- ✓ Boston Public Schools students receive full and partial scholarships from 27 Boston-area colleges and universities.

## New Schools ... *and more school choices*

- ✓ Nineteen BPS "pilot" schools — elementary, middle and high — have opened in the past ten years.
- ✓ Since 1995, BPS has built six new, state-of-the-art facilities, including three early education centers, two middle schools and one K-8 school, all in neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of students.
- ✓ By September 2005, four large high schools will become 13 small schools offering specialized curricula and unique partnerships in science, technology, business, health, and public service.



- ✓ 25 out of 34 BPS high schools will have fewer than 500 students by the fall of 2005.
- ✓ Between 1995 and 2004, BPS added nine new K-8 programs, with a total of 3700 seats, and more are coming next year.
- ✓ Since 1998, BPS has guaranteed full-day kindergarten for all five-year-olds, one of the first school systems in Massachusetts to do so. BPS also expanded programs for four-year-olds, with 500 more seats to come in 2005 and additional seats in 2006.
- ✓ In 2005 and 2006, BPS is implementing changes to simplify the process of choosing schools and to allow more families to attend school close to home, while retaining the opportunity to choose among a wider range of schools if they prefer.

*Come inside. See the progress. Get involved.*

## Smaller Classes

- ✓ BPS has improved the student/teacher ratio for every grade in the past seven years. The maximum class size in grades 1 and 2 is down 20%, from 28 to 22 students per class.
- ✓ Teacher's aides, student teachers and trained volunteers in many classrooms provide further individualized attention for students.

## More Arts Programming

- ✓ BPS has added 126 full-time arts teachers since 1994 – offering dance, music, theater and visual arts – and created 22 instrumental music programs in elementary and middle schools in just the past four years.
- ✓ The city's first visual and performing arts high school opened in 1998, and six other Boston high schools now have computer music studios.

## Technological Advancements

- ✓ In 1998, the Boston Public Schools became the first U.S. urban school district to wire every school to the internet.
- ✓ The student/computer ratio improved from 63:1 in 1993 to 5:1 in 2005.

## Expanded After-School Opportunities

- ✓ In the past decade, the capacity of after-school programs around the city serving Boston children has nearly doubled, to 48,000 seats, with 110 programs operating right in BPS buildings.
- ✓ Since 1998, BPS has tripled the number of school buildings kept open until 5 p.m. or later for after-school activities.



# And did you know . . .

- ✓ Every school has a plan to continuously improve quality. The plan is developed and updated annually by a school team—including the principal, teachers and parents—and then monitored by BPS leadership.
- ✓ 14 schools have swimming pools and 66 BPS schoolyards have been renovated since 1995 to create new playgrounds and outdoor classrooms.
- ✓ The Boston Public Schools has been recognized as one of the top five urban school systems in the United States for three years in a row by the Broad Foundation.
- ✓ BPS families come from 115 countries, with students representing a wide diversity of races and cultures.
- ✓ BPS offers high school students 14 extracurricular sports, from soccer to golf, cross-country to volleyball. In 2004/05, BPS teams won the state championships in hockey, basketball and football.
- ✓ In 2003, BPS launched its own teacher and principal institutes to recruit and train top-notch staff and to familiarize them with Boston's high expectations.
- ✓ The Boston Public Schools partners with each of the city's major cultural institutions to expand arts, sports and other opportunities for students.



## To learn more about the Boston Public Schools:

- **Visit these websites:** [www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org), [www.countdowntokindergarten.org](http://www.countdowntokindergarten.org) & [www.ybps.org](http://www.ybps.org)
- **View the 10-minute video “Why BPS?”** at [www.cityofboston.gov/cable/video\\_library.asp?id=448](http://www.cityofboston.gov/cable/video_library.asp?id=448)
- **Call or visit any of the 3 BPS Family Resource Centers (FRCs):** 515 Hyde Park Ave. in Roslindale (617-635-8040); 55 Malcolm X Blvd. in Roxbury (617-635-9010); 1216 Dorchester Ave. in Dorchester (617-635-8015)
- **Read an overview of each school** in *Introducing the Boston Public Schools*—available in eight languages on-line and at all FRCs and schools



**Thomas M. Menino**  
Mayor of Boston

**Elizabeth Reilinger**  
School Committee Chair

**Thomas W. Payzant**  
Superintendent of Schools

